

S/N unknown

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

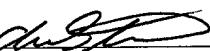
Applicant: NEAUX Serial No.: unknown
Filed: concurrent herewith Docket No.: 9320.138US01
Title: ROOF-RACK BAR FOR AUTOMOBILE VEHICLES INTENDED TO BE
MOUNTED ON NON-PARALLEL SIDE RAILS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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By: 
Name: Chris Stordahl

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment (marked-up copy attached):

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

3. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 characterized in that said first locking and/or reinforcement means comprise at least one male (respectively female) component capable of operating in conjunction with, and of complementing, at least one female (respectively male) component fitted on the transverse bar.

4. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 characterized in that in the locked position said first and second locking and/or reinforcement means constitute a gear system comprising at least one tooth.

5. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 characterized in that said first and second locking and/or reinforcement means comprise at least one rack.

7. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of claim 5 characterized in that said transverse bar comprises a mobile component capable of sliding along said transverse bar and of operating in conjunction with said rack such that it draws it between the locked and unlocked position and vice versa.

9. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 characterized in that it comprises at least one means for actuating the locking/unlocking of said transverse bar that projects into a recess of said transverse bar or one of said feet.

11. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of claim 1 characterized in that it comprises at least one actuating means that act simultaneously on:

- locking/unlocking said transverse bar in said housing;
- immobilization means fitted on at least one of said fastening feet such

that they authorize or prevent said feet from being displaced along said guidance side rails.

16. (Amended) Roof-rack for automobile vehicles consisting of at least two roof-rack bars, characterized in that at least one of them is a roof-rack bar of claim 1.

18. (Amended) Roof-rack of claim 16 characterized in that said roof-rack bars can be grouped together to constitute an aerofoil.

Please add the following new claims:

19. (New) Roof-rack bar of claim 2 characterized in that said first locking and/or reinforcement means comprise at least one male (respectively female) component capable of operating in conjunction with, and of complementing, at least one female (respectively male) component fitted on the transverse bar.

20. (New) Roof-rack bar of claim 6 characterized in that said transverse bar comprises a mobile component capable of sliding along said transverse bar and of operating in conjunction with said rack such that it draws it between the locked and unlocked position and vice versa.

21. (New) Roof-rack of claim 17 characterized in that said roof-rack bars can be grouped together to constitute an aerofoil.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 16 and 18.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

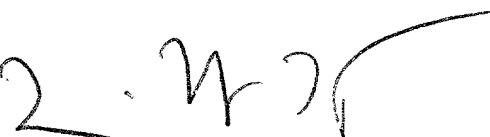
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 14, 2001

By _____



Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No. 32,960

JJG/tvm

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3. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of [either of claims 1 and 2] claim 1 characterized in that said first locking and/or reinforcement means comprise at least one male (respectively female) component capable of operating in conjunction with, and of complementing, at least one female (respectively male) component fitted on the transverse bar.

4. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 characterized in that in the locked position said first and second locking and/or reinforcement means constitute a gear system comprising at least one tooth.

5. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 characterized in that said first and second locking and/or reinforcement means comprise at least one rack.

7. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of [either of claims 5 and 6] claim 5 characterized in that said transverse bar comprises a mobile component capable of sliding along said transverse bar and of operating in conjunction with said rack such that it draws it between the locked and unlocked position and vice versa.

9. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1 characterized in that it comprises at least one means for actuating the locking/unlocking of said transverse bar that projects into a recess of said transverse bar or one of said feet.

11. (Amended) Roof-rack bar of [any of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 characterized in that it comprises at least one actuating means that act simultaneously on:

- locking/unlocking said transverse bar in said housing;
- immobilization means fitted on at least one of said fastening feet such that they authorize or prevent said feet from being displaced along said guidance side rails.

16. (Amended) Roof-rack for automobile vehicles consisting of at least two roof-rack bars, characterized in that at least one of them is a roof-rack bar of [any of claims 1 to 15] claim 1.

18. (Amended) Roof-rack of [either of claims 16 or 17] claim 16 characterized in that said roof-rack bars can be grouped together to constitute an aerofoil.